Utility of providing special status to States

1427. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission while reviewing utility of special category status to States has decided to withdraw the status from them since, it has not benefited achieving desired objective of overall development and has to jeopardizing the viability and validity of such States;

(b) whether Planning Commission has also pointed out that special category status conferred to certain States *viz*. Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and North Eastern States have not yielded desired results including industrialization in spite it has caused major heartburning among neighbouring States; and

(c) if so, to what extent would be loss to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No decision has been taken to withdraw the Special Category status given to certain States.

(b) and (c) The Eleventh plan document has recognized that the industrial incentives have stimulated industrial activity in the beneficiary States. However, taking into account complaints received from various States regarding flight of capital to beneficiary states, the Eleventh Plan document has underlined the need for consideration of replacing the incentives, fully or partly, by an accelerated programme for infrastructure development.

Socio-economic gap between Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

1428. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council held on June 27, 2005 the issue concerning socio-economic gap between Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and others was discussed;

(b) if so, what guidelines were designed by the Finance Ministry or Planning Commission to implement the said guidelines; and

(c) the provisions that were made for SC/ST in the Union Budget of 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council held on 27th June, 2005, the issue concerning socio-economic gap between Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and others was discussed and it was suggested that Special Component Plan (SCP) now renamed as Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) should be made an integral part of Annual Plans as well as Five Year Plans, making provisions therein non-divertible and non-lapsable, with the clear objective of bridging the socio-economic gap between the SC/ST's and others.